

MRAC Hamateur Chatter

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club

April 2016 Volume 24, Issue 4

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs—since 1917

Presidents' Letter

Spring has finally arrived in Southeastern Wisconsin, and the month of March featured with an informative club meeting with our out-of-town guests. Special thanks to Matt Welch W8DEC for giving his APRS & Public Service Communications presentation. He provided great insights on how individuals and clubs can take advantage of APRS so if you are interested in learning more, let us know we'll pass along the information.

Also, we made Bob Inderbitzen NQ1R from ARRL an honorary member of MRAC for his years of support to our club. He graciously shared his experiences of planning the ARRL 100th anniversary, and provided helpful suggestions on how to maximize our upcoming 100th anniversary celebration.

His two biggest recommendations were to have our celebration of the anniversary during the 2017 AES Superfest, since we will have a large number of people in Milwaukee attending the festivities and can draw them into our anniversary activities, AND to make sure that everyone gets involved. Remember that MRAC is YOUR club, so it is also YOUR anniversary celebration. We need everyone to participate this milestone, and committees are forming soon so be sure to play an active role in this historic celebration.

Finally, we are going to try something new in May. On Saturday, May 21, which is the same weekend of the Dayton Hamvention, MRAC is sponsoring a **Ham Radio Tailgate** behind AES. This is a great way to be part of a local ham flea market similar to what you'd experience at Dayton, without all the driving AND for FREE to the public!

Much like the South Milwaukee fest, sellers will pay \$5 to sell out of the back of their cars. We still have a few details to

work out, but mark your calendars NOW and check our newsletter, website, on the NET, and on our Facebook page for more details soon. As always, we welcome volunteers, so drop me a note if you want to get in on the ground floor for this event.

We are proud to announce the winner of the MRAC Logo Contest: Jeff Geil N9EDQ! We are in the process of having a professional graphic artist finalize the logo for use in all of our future signage and correspondence. Gold Medal Ideas will handle making our new club jackets and hats with the logo once it's finalized. If there are other items you would like to see the logo on, please let us know, and be sure to congratulate Jeff on his design, which you can see on the website: <http://www.w9rh.org/100th-anniversary/logo-contest/>

Finally, a reminder that our April 28th meeting is our annual Election meeting. We are having an election of 4 director positions on the board, which includes two vacancies that need to be filled to make the board complete. Please consider stepping up to help run our organization.

After the elections, we will transition to our meeting topic: Sharing Your Dayton Hamvention Stories. We have a few members who are going to Dayton for the first time this year, and we'd love to provide them with some insider tips. Bring your stories, your pictures, your favorite flea market finds, and let's help them have an enjoyable experience.

'73 Dave, KA9WXN



MRAC Officers:

Terms Expiring in 2016

- President – Dave, KA9WXN
- V-President– Vacant
- Secretary – MBH, KC9CMT
- Treasurer – MBH,,KC9CMT

Terms Expiring in 2017

- Director – Al, KC9IJJ
- Director – Hal , KB9OZN
- Director – Tom, W9TJP

The Club Phone Number is: (414) 332-MRAC or

(414) 332- 6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

Mail correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.

**PO Box 26233
Milwaukee, WI**

53226-0233

Board of directors meeting called to order at 6:58 pm by Dave Shank, KA9WXN club president.

Director's present: Michael KC9CMT, Dave KA9WXN, Tom W9TJP, Hal KB9OZN, Al KC9IJJ.

Absent: One Vacancy

Preliminary Discussion: The Treasurers report for February 2016 was presented by Michael, KC9CMT. The treasurers report was approved as read by KC9CMT, a motion to accept was made by Tom, W9TJP, seconded by Al, KC9IJJ. The February balance ended with \$20,966.33 in Club accounts. The Board of Directors' meeting minutes were accepted as published in the March chatter by a unanimous vote. New member certificates will be mailed if not handed out when they become available. Club dues will increase to \$20 per year effective April 1st, 2016.

Meeting programs: March program to be guests from the coming AES SuperFest, Matt W8DEC and Bob Inderbitzen, discussing APRS for ARES, Dave, KA9WXN will be bringing refreshments for the meeting. Leftover soda from the February food gathering. Our April meeting is the annual election, the MRAC will be contacting certain individuals that the club directors think may be able to serve on the board of directors. plus a presentation on the upcoming Hamfest at Dayton, Ohio that is held in May. basically Dayton stories, that should be fun. April 2nd is the AES SuperFest this year. There will be a special event station for us setup during this year's Superfest, compliments of our friends at AES. We will be using the callsign W9RH. The May meeting will be the annual auction as in past years. We are expecting a larger turn out this year due to the SMARC March auction being canceled. The June 30th meeting will be after Field Day this year so the program presentation will be a field day wrap up. There will be no meetings during July, August and December again this year. The church has been advised of all our meeting dates for 2016.

Field Day: The necessary officials at MATC have approved us using their South Shore campus area for our Field day activities. MATC has both port-a-potties and hand wash stations at the location. The board would like to have a working committee for the field day 2017 effort.

Special Project Committees & Committee reports:

Repeater Report: The club would like more than one repeater control operator. A club repeater control operator should be a extra class operator to have the kind of privileges that are necessary to operate field day to its fullest extent.

New Business: Dave, KA9WXN is continuing discussions regarding events for the clubs' 2017 100th anniversary. The guests at the March club meeting, from the ARRL, will be made honorary members of the MRAC, by unanimous vote of the board of director's. It has been decided that Bob Heil will be granted the same honorarium. Each person will receive a certificate and letter of acceptance.

We need to start planning special event stations for the entire year of 2017. Dave, KA9WXN will attempt to generate interest among the membership in forming a committee to handle planning. The winner of the logo contest should be picked during the April meeting, 2017 is the 100th anniversary.

The contest will be open to club and non-club people, but must hold a Amateur Radio License to be in the contest. Copy to be included in the new Logo, ARRL affiliation, Club 100th year, and callsign with Frequency. The board does want to go ahead with planning a banquet during the 100th anniversary year. Time and place to be determined. It is important that the club gets going on the planning for 2017 events.

Swapfest Committee: Attendance was slightly down at our 2016 swapfest. Table sales were consistent with 2015. Both MAARS and MRAC made a profit from the 2016 swapfest. We will continue to use the Google spreadsheet for the 2017 swapfest. The date and venue of a 2017 swapfest is still being discussed.

There are a number of places and dates being considered. There has been some discussion about having a out-of-trunk event using the AES grounds sometime during the warm weather months, perhaps during the Dayton Hamfest weekend for people that are not going to Dayton.

Special Projects: The club needs someone to take over the FM simplex contest for February of 2017. Joe N9UX is having the scoring of the contest being done by Dave KA9WXN this year. The club really needs PR and recruitment, business cards have been printed and will be handed out at all club activities. Joe, N9UX has talked about doing another balloon launch in summer 2016. The board of director's has entered discussions regarding the logistics of having a banquet that would be the day before or during AES SuperFest. The club could send out invitations for the banquet. **Work needs to start on the 100th anniversary celebration that falls in 2017.** The club wants a special event callsign to use during the 100th year events. Dave WB9BWP the club trustee would have to request the callsign from the FCC. The club would also like to have a membership drive for new members for 2017. There would be a special certificate for the any new member of the club. There could also be an award for anyone in the club that attacks a certain number of new members. This is still being discussed. The club needs to have some special QSL cards, or ridged certificates, printed up for contacts during the calendar year of 2017. The club would like to query members about working on projects for the 100th anniversary. A budgetary figure of \$5000 is being considered for 2017, 100th anniversary activities. The people from the ARRL coming to town for the AES swapfest will be asked about advertising the clubs 100th year activities in the QST. Perhaps we can get the ARRL to print a story in their magazine.

Website update: Club members have been using our PayPal account to renewal their dues. PayPal keeps the money for 21 days before the club can transfer it to our club bank account. The club also has a Wiki page. Dave, WB9BWP is continuing to work on the club history Wiki page.

Clubs throughout the country need to use the spectrum that they have been given. MRAC recently donated \$100 to the ARRL spectrum defense fund, and received a letter thanking the club for our donation. The 220mhz band is not used very often in the Milwaukee area.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm by Hal, KB9OZN, seconded by Al KC9IJJ. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

The Library room will be returned to an orderly condition as it was when we arrived.

USB Universal Serial Bus

USB, or the Universal Serial Bus Interface is now well established as an interface for computer communications.

In many areas it has completely overtaken RS232 and the parallel or Centronics interface for printers, and it is also widely used for memory sticks, computer mice, keyboards and for many other functions.

One of the advantages of USB is its flexibility: another is the speed that USB provides.

USB provides a sufficiently fast serial data transfer mechanism for data communications, however it is also possible to obtain power through the connector and this has further added to the popularity of USB as many small computer peripherals may be powered via this. From memory and disk drives to other applications such as small fans and coffee cup warmers, the USB port on computers can be used for a variety of tasks.



USB evolution

The USB interface was developed as a result of the need for a communications interface that was convenient to use and one that would support the higher data rates being required within the computer and peripherals industries.

The first proper release of a USB specification was Version 0.7 of the specification. This occurred in November 1994.

This was followed in January 1996 by USB 1.0. USB 1.0 was widely adopted and became the standard on many PCs as well as many printers using the standard. In addition to this a variety of other peripherals adopted the USB interface, with small memory sticks starting to appear as a convenient way for transferring or temporarily storing data.

Summary of USB Versions and Performance

USB Version	Details
USB 1	Low speed: 1.5 Mbps Full speed: 12 Mbps
USB 2	'High Speed' rate of 480 Mbps
USB 3	Raw data transfer rates of 4.8 Gbit/s



With USB 1.0 well established, faster data transfer rates were required, and accordingly a new specification, USB 2 was released. With the importance of USB already established it did not take long for the new standard to be adopted.

With USB defining its place in the market, other developments of the standard were investigated. With the need for mobility in many areas of the electronics industry taking off, the next obvious move for USB was to adopt a wireless

interface. In doing this wireless USB would need to retain the same flexible approach that provided the success for the wired interface. In addition to this the wireless USB interface needs to be able to transfer data at rates which will be higher than those currently attainable with the wired USB 2 connections. To achieve this ultra-wideband UWB technology is used.

USB capabilities

The basic concept of USB was for an interface that would be able to connect a variety of computer peripheral devices, such as keyboards and mice, to PCs. However, since its introduction, the applications for USB have widened and it has been used for many other purposes including, including measurement and automation.

In terms of performance, USB 1.1 enabled a maximum throughput of 12 Mbps, but with the introduction of USB 2.0 the maximum speed is 480 Mbps.

In operation, the USB host automatically detects when a new device has been added. It then requests identification from the device and appropriately configures the drivers. The bus topology allows up to 127 devices to run concurrently on one port. Conversely, the classic serial port supports a single device on each port. By adding hubs, more ports can be added to a USB host, creating connections for more peripherals.

USB advantages & disadvantages

USB has many advantages when compared to other technologies, but it also has a number of disadvantages which need to be considered when deciding on a technology to be used.

Advantages & Disadvantages of USB

Advantages

- Ease of use
- Acceptable data rate for many applications
- Robust connector system
- Variety of connector types / sizes available
- Low cost

Disadvantages

- Data transfer not as fast as some other systems
- Limited capability & overall performance

USB has many advantages and this is why it is so widely used. However, its simplicity and ease of use, mean that it is not always applicable in applications where more sophisticated interfaces are required for very high speed data transfer. With USB in almost universal use in new computers, a host of peripherals using the USB standard, its use is set to continue for many years to come. With the USB standard being updated to enable it to keep pace with technology, it could run like a similar story to Ethernet, where it will be in use for many years, but still at the forefront of technology..

USB Universal Serial Bus Connectors, Pinouts & Cables

USB, the Universal Serial Bus has a number of connector and cable options each with simple and standard connections / pinouts.

The USB connector is remarkably simple having just four main connections for the data and power.

Weather Awareness

In addition to this it is also possible to use extender cables. The maximum allowable length for an individual cable is 5 meters (3 meters for slow devices) and this allows the USB data acquisition module to be located remotely from the computer.

Like all connectors, those used for USB have male and female versions to ensure that devices are mated in the correct direction.

Remote devices have what is termed an upstream connection to a host. In turn hosts have downstream connections to remote devices.

Upstream and downstream connectors are not mechanically interchangeable. This ensures that they can only be connected in the required direction, thereby eliminating the possibility of issues such as illegal loopback connections at hubs like downstream ports being connected to another downstream port.

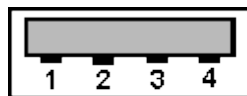
Until recently there was no peer-to-peer functionality.

USB connector types

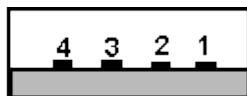
There are seven USB connector types: Type A, Type B, Mini-A, Mini-B, Micro-A, Micro-B and Micro-AB. Types A and B have 4 pins within the connector, Mini and Micro A and B connectors have five pins.

USB type A connector outlines

A USB cable can have one of two forms of connector in the original system. These are designated the "A" and "B" connectors. The connections to the connectors are given below:



Female



Male

Type A USB connector pinout

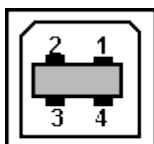
The USB Type A plug is the male version of the connector. What might be referred to as the socket, is the female connector or receptacle, although it is often referred to as the port.

The female connector or receptacle is the type found on the host, e.g. computer, etc., whereas the male will be seen on items like flash memories, mouse connector, keyboard connector, etc..

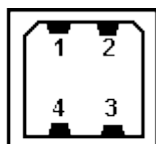
There is some colour coding on these connectors in terms of their capabilities. USB 3.0 Type A connectors are often, but not always, the colored blue. USB 2.0 Type A and USB 1.1 Type A connectors are often black, but this is not always the case.

USB type B connector

A second connector type known as the Type B was often used for smaller peripherals. This had slightly different pinout arrangement.



Female



Male

Type B USB connector pinout

1899 New Richmond Cyclone

The following excerpts have been taken from the book

"They Built Their City Twice"

A History of New Richmond, Wisconsin

by long-time New Richmond resident and curator of the Heritage Center, Mary Sather.

Chapter IV

NEW RICHMOND DESTROYED IN CYCLONE

The winter of 1898-99 had been an unusually severe one with snow so deep the sleighs rode on the hard crust over the fence posts buried beneath. Unrelenting cold climaxed in January at 60 degrees below zero. Old people and those in "delicate" health were house bound for months into a late spring.

"O! How we longed for summer!" wrote Anna Epley in her history of the cyclone, A Modern Herculaneum. "How we braced ourselves up in the freezing air, saying encouragingly to each other, "Wait patiently till the bright, beautiful summer comes. We will then forget we ever had such a severe winter. We will enjoy ourselves in our hammocks under the beautiful branches of our New Richmond's glorious trees! Where are they now? And the summer came, and brought us death!"

However, when the day of June 12, 1899 started, no one knew of the holocaust in store for them. It was a Monday; school had let out the previous Thursday. It was to be a gala day because of the Gollmar Brothers Circus was in town and the country people started coming in early. No one wanted to miss the big parade and the "monster menagerie and museum" or the "Mammoth two-ring circus." So, by coincidence, New Richmond was more filled with people than usual, many staying over the night after the festive occasion.

Morning is Peaceful Before Cyclone Disaster

Anna Epley described the peaceful city as that Monday began, telling of the milk and baker's carts on their round, the business houses opening for the day wearing "an air of prosperity and expectancy for the brisk trade in view," while the New Richmond Roller Mills ground its "famous flour."

As the day wore on, it became oppressively hot for a June day. By five o'clock the circus was over, and fortunately, because a light rain had begun falling, followed by a sluggish hail. By six o'clock, as people were heading home for supper, a few were beginning to notice the clouds that had formed about 5:30 p.m. above Lake St. Croix.

According to Mrs. Epley, an eyewitness described the cloud formation as follows: "A top-shaped cloud came dancing up along the lake; another mass or column of cloud came from the vicinity of Stillwater. These two clouds were merged together in a funnel-shaped column, or columnar mass, spreading somewhat at the top, and boiling or tumbling rapidly within itself. Thus agitated, it turned eastward, and skirting the hills south of Hudson and hugging the ground closely, it took a northeasterly course towards New Richmond."

On that course it followed, destroying and demolishing the clusters of farm buildings in its path.

Then, with a deafening roar and rumbling, the tornado swept down the length of New Richmond completely leveling what was estimated to be a strip about 1000 feet wide and 3000 feet long. Only the extreme western edge of the town escaped damage or destruction. Because of the timing, about 6 p.m., with many people on the streets on their way home for supper, and because of the crowd in town due to the circus, more than the usual number were out away from readily available shelter. The scene was one of confusion and terror as people belatedly realized what was happening.

Many did save their lives by fleeing to the cellars in the few seconds warning time they had. However, sometimes this shelter was not sufficient. The O. J. Williams dry good store on the corner of Third and Main Streets proved to be a real death trap. People on the streets in front of it rushed into the store for safety with the result that the building held one of the highest mortality rates in the city. The bricks were sucked up by the tornado and hurled back down on the crowd in the cellar.

The impression made by the disaster was carried throughout life by those who were there, both adults and children.

The black cloud was filled with flashes of light giving some the impression the end of the world had come. But before people had a chance to fully comprehend what had happened to them, another wind came up from the northwest, causing panic and people to head for cellars again. The wind brought with it a downpour of rain and falling temperatures, so that the people thinly clad for the day's heat, were cold and shivering without protection. The gale of wind and rain continued for over an hour.

But, there was work to be done. The immediate need was

to search out family members and release victims trapped under the debris. Fires in many locations had instantly broken out following the destruction of the buildings. According to one observer, the fire was the "saddest and most horrible part of the whole affair." Any number of bodies were later discovered burned with no way of knowing whether the individuals had perished in the tornado or the ensuing flames.

All over the stricken city, survivors, many of the them in a state of shock and injured themselves, searched for family members or tried to release trapped people from the ruins. All telephone and telegraphic communication had been cut off so messengers were sent to Stillwater and Hudson to request help and medical supplies. The electric light plant had been destroyed, so much of the search was conducted by the light of the same fires which were causing such anguish. The city waterworks plant had been demolished, too, the hydrants and pumps ruined and wells filled up. It was difficult to find water, much less a pail to put it in.

Medical Help Was Badly Needed

Supplying medical help was an immediate need. Of the four drugstores in town, only splinters remained, and of the four doctors' offices, two were completely gone and the remaining two stripped of supplies and fill of dirt and fragments. A temporary hospital and a temporary morgue were both needed. The Congregational Church and the schoolhouse, while both were damaged, sufficed for the first, the Catholic Church for the second. The pastors of both churches, Mr. Adams and Fr. Degnan, were both cited for their courage and assistance in the disaster.

The first message to get out was sent from the telegraph office at Roberts, nine miles south of New Richmond. The first relief train arrived shortly after midnight from Chippewa Falls on the Wisconsin Central line. At each station along the route, the train had stopped and taken on more willing volunteers. Ten physicians were on this train as well as medical supplies. Doctors from Roberts and Hammond had arrived earlier. Because of the general filthy conditions and the lack of facilities, it was decided to send the injured to hospitals in St. Paul, extra trains being put on the line as soon as more victims were discovered and ready to transport.

Relief supplies, food, and money soon came pouring in from towns all over Wisconsin and neighboring Minnesota. Several pieces of fire equipment from St. Paul helped control the flames, and members of the militia sent to guard the city were a welcome relief to the surviving inhabitants. There had been several cases of people being stripped of their belongings while lying helpless and unable to defend themselves.

An impromptu court was established. Two ancient justices of the peace, each seated on a cracker box, dispensed liberal sentences to those who were caught pilfering.



Scenes of Death Appalling Destruction of life and property in Wisconsin.

Dead numbered by scores. Searching for bodies in the ruins of New Richmond.

Relief promptly offered. Milwaukee and other towns render aid to the stricken sufferers – eye

Witness tells the story of the horror – Gov. Scofield makes an appeal for aid – List of the know killed And injured.



Careful estimates of the casualties in Monday's storm are as follows:
Lives Lost In Storms.
New Richmond, Wis. -- 120.
Boardman, Wis. -- 4.

Onalaska, Wis. -- 2.
LaCrosse, Wis. -- 2.
Herman, Neb. -- 12.
Clear Lake, Wis. -- 3.
Persons Injured.
New Richmond, Wis. -- 320.
Barron, Wis. -- 2.
Clear Lake, Wis. -- 2.
Buildings Destroyed.
New Richmond, Wis. -- 300.



New Richmond, Wis., June 14. -- It is difficult to fully describe the situation and horrors at New Richmond. Those who worked all day and evening in the ruins Tuesday estimate the loss of life at about 100, while nearly 200 buildings were destroyed and a loss entailed of over \$500,000.

No account of the storm is exaggerated. A space at least one-half mile square -- the entire business portion of the city -- is devastated, not a single brick remaining upon another. The horrors of the tornado were added to by the fires which followed, and the burning of many human beings, whose bodies are still in the debris.

The fire is still burning in the debris, and with the one fire engine from St. Paul, and with the firemen doing all they can, they are as yet unable to quench the flames.

A large force of men is now at work clearing away the remnants of buildings and bringing out the bodies. The men are working with vigor and energy, and every few minutes another body is found and another chapter added to the horrible catastrophe.

A large percentage of those injured and killed were crushed in the wrecked buildings. Many of the houses which remain standing in the residence district, both to the north and south of where the tornado passed, are badly demolished. On some the shingles are torn off, windows are broken in, porches are

lifted, and additions have been carried distances of from ten to fifty feet.

The railroads promptly furnished supplies and brought in nurses and physicians. After the relief trains arrived from St. Paul and Stillwater, the doctors and nurses organized into squads and visited the houses which had been turned into improvised hospitals. The Congregational and Catholic churches are the main wards, and parts of the buildings are used for morgues, nearly a score of undertakers being at work preparing the bodies for burial.

Nearly every house in the city has from two to eight injured people in it. The number of injured will be 300 to 400, and possibly more than that.

A complete list of those who have been taken from the ruins is almost unobtainable, inasmuch as they are scattered to so many parts of the place.

Physicians and nurses who came by special train from St. Paul and other points were hard at work all day, and the injured have been well cared for.

The tornado came up the river from Hudson, gathering intensity as it came. Many farmhouses were destroyed, and probably eight lives lost in the country. A circus gave a performance here Monday and hundreds of people who came from the country to witness it were still in town when the tornado struck, and added to the list of the dead.

The Rev. Dr. Degman of the Church of the Immaculate Conception who has been hard at work with the suffering, tells the history of the storm. He says:

"I was standing on the porch of my house, which is some three blocks west of the Omaha station. My little nephew was with me.

Pointing to the threatening clouds, I said to him:

"These clouds are cyclonic." That was about 6:30. Then I heard a fearful sound. It was like the panting of fifty locomotives on an up-grade. I said to the boy: 'There is the cyclone.' "In the southwest was a great black cloud, cone-shaped, the apex in the earth and the funnel in the sky. Already, far ahead of the center, the air was full of flying debris, splinters, boards, feathers, bedding and everything. I told the boy to run and warn the people in the houses between us and the track. From all sides the people came running, begging assistance. I took them and some people from the parish school-house and hurried them into the cellar of my house."

"They begged for absolution, and I knelt down and gave it to them. Even as I prayed the great, black cloud of destruction was upon the village. Out of the general and terrific roar, I could hear the crashing and hissing sound as house after house collapsed. I ran out, and was struck twice by pieces of flying planks. Then the storm was gone."

Racine Daily Journal Wisconsin 1899-06



The Medic

By : "Doc" Reynolds

My name is Donald W. Reynolds. I am a 67 year old Vietnam veteran. I left home at the beginning of my junior year of high school in Tacoma, Washington, and spent the remainder of my junior year living at Dyslin's Boy's Ranch for abused children.

I voluntarily entered the United States Army on August 26, 1966 at the age of 17 and completed basic training at Fort Lewis, Washington. I was then sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas for AIT (Advanced Individual Training) as a field medic. Following my training as a medic at Ft. Sam, I was sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia where I worked in the Emergency Department and in the Dermatology Clinic. I submitted a 1049 (request for transfer) to Vietnam.

I received orders transferring me to Vietnam in June of 1967 and after 30 days leave arrived in Vietnam on July 25th 1967. When I arrived in Vietnam I was 18 years old. We came into country on a World Airways 707 who held a contract with the government to transport troops both to and back home from Vietnam. I was three days late getting to Vietnam as I had been partying in Los Angeles with my older sister and her roommate.

My first memories of Vietnam were of landing in country on that plane. The pilot informed us that, given the very real possibility of taking incoming fire on landing, we would be making a steep approach and landing and that we should be ready to exit the plane as soon as we came to a stop. When we landed in the evening, the sun had gone down and the heat, humidity, and the smell were overwhelming. There were artillery pieces, either 155's or eight inchers, firing outgoing rounds. I couldn't tell the difference between incoming and outgoing, as at that point they all sounded the same to me.

We were transported to the 90th Replacement Battalion in Long Binh in buses with screens on the windows. When I asked the bus driver the reason for the screens on the windows, he explained that they were to prevent the VC from throwing grenades through the windows. That information, in addition to the fact that the bus driver drove the bus like he was driving a sports car on a road course, kept me in a state of absolute fear for the first two weeks I was in country. I realized at that point that I could either live in fear for the next year and develop an acute case of ulcers, or I could resign myself to the fact that I had little control over whether I got killed from some errant incoming round or some other crazy happenstance.

After arriving at the 90th replacement Battalion, we were required to attend formations three times a day in order to receive our assignments. I was fearful that they would punish me for arriving three days late by assigning me to an Infantry outfit out in the bush. As luck would have it, on my third day in country I received orders transferring me to the 11th Aviation Battalion in Phu Loi. I was taken over to the helipad at Long Binh and told to report to the operations shack and let them know where I was trying to go. I did so, and about 40 minutes later a Huey landed. They told me to put my stuff on and climb aboard. We got to Phu Loi and I was taken to Battalion headquarters.

I received my assignment to the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company. I stayed overnight there in Phu Loi at the transient barracks at the 11th Avn. Bn., and was told to report the next morning to flight operations for a flight to Lai Khe, the headquarters of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company. The next morning I reported to flight operations, and after waiting for what seemed like hours, a slick (passenger carrying helicopter), landed and I was told to climb aboard. I guess in retrospect I should have been suspicious because of the looks that the pilots and crew chief and gunner were exchanging, but I was so scared and in awe of all the new experiences that it didn't occur to me. We took off from Phu Loi enroute to Lai Khe and shortly after taking off, the Aircraft Commander, who I believe was Timothy Artman, took the helicopter down to within about two or three feet off the ground.

I had never heard of low level flight, and I thought it was pretty exciting for a while until we began to get close to a copse of trees in front of us. As we got closer I realized that we were too close and the trees were too tall for us to go over them, and at what seemed like the last possible moment Tim turned that ship on its left side and slipped through a space that didn't seem big enough for anything to go through. When he executed that maneuver, I was sitting on the far left seat of the chopper with my legs over the end of the bench seat and I was looking down at the ground going by at an incredibly fast rate and it felt like I was going to fall out of the aircraft. After he straightened the aircraft out I realized that everyone was having a real good laugh at my reaction to the maneuver. When we sat down at Lai Khe and shut the ship down, both pilots, and the gunner and crew chief came over and shook my hand, still chuckling to themselves and said, "Welcome to the Robin Hoods." From that moment on I was hooked on helicopters and flew whenever I could.

My first week at Lai Khe was a blur of new experiences. I had to attend an in country jungle school taught by the 1st Infantry Division. Most of the guys attending the school were 1st Infantry guys slated to go to grunt units and I wondered what I, who had been assigned to an aviation unit, was doing out here.

I vaguely remember being taught about trip wires, booby traps, the importance of not walking on trails or rice paddy dikes because of the possibilities of ambushes. We had been exposed to, and had the opportunity to fire M-60 machine guns, a .50 caliber machine gun, M-16, and the LAW at hulks of M-113's. I remember eating C-rations and the final night march to the firing range at the south end of the Lai Khe perimeter.

I had somehow acquired an M-3 grease gun, a .45 caliber submachine gun used in WWII as a tankers weapon, and had filled the three 30 round (I think) magazines with tracers. I don't know where I got this stuff, but I thought that it was pretty neat shit. When we arrived at the firing range and got on line, we were given the order to commence firing and the sight and sound of about 15 different weapons firing at the same time, most loaded with one tracer in every five rounds was the biggest rush I had ever experienced up to that point in my life. When I fired that grease gun on full auto, full of tracers for the full three magazines, it looked like an orange rainbow going downrange. It was the finest light show I had ever seen.

I thought that, having completed the jungle school, I was prepared to survive in the bush if I ever had to, but thank God I never did.

I got back to the company area at about 2300 hours and stripped off my clothes to take a shower. I had leaches all over my legs and crotch and just about freaked out. One of the medics in my hootch, after he got finished laughing at me, got out a bottle of bug juice and put some on all of the leaches. They all dropped off, but I continued to bleed from the bites for about two hours because of the anticoagulants in their saliva. I went down to the shower area and scrubbed myself raw until I felt clean, then walked back to my hootch to the accompanying sounds of an 8 inch gun emplacement at the end of the runway firing H&I fire at some unknown target. I flopped into my bunk and passed out awaking in the morning to a bunk saturated with blood from the leach bites from the previous night.

I was a medic with the Robinhoods of the 173rd AHC at Lai Khe from July 25, 1967 to July 25, 1968. I worked as a medic in the Quonset hut dispensary at the north end of the company area directly across the road from an engineer unit and to the west of the 2/2nd Mechanized Infantry of the 1st Infantry Division. Most of the work we did as medics in the dispensary was running daily sick call, passing out bandages, suturing the occasional small laceration, and testing and treating cases of gonorrhea for those who enjoyed the entertainment of the "ladies" in the village across the runway from us. After having been in the unit for about a month or a month and a half, a couple of gunners in slicks suggested that I come "fly the friendly skies" as a gunner on an occasional basis. Their names were Gary Wetzel and Jimmy Banicki. They took it upon themselves to train me in procedures and gunnery, taught me how to strip and clean the M-60 machine guns and generally made sure that I was prepared to do the job of a gunner without being an embarrassment to them. I flew once or twice a week for about four months prior to the 1968 TET offensive on combat assaults and ash and trash missions.

On January 8, 1968 we were doing Eagle flights supporting the 9th Infantry Division. (I don't remember the unit) We were sitting on the ground at the old French Fort along the Nha Be River eating C-rations when we got the order to crank up. We loaded up the slicks and flew to the LZ which was just outside of Ap Dong An. As we were about 1 minute out of the LZ, and flying in a heavy right formation we received orders to go in heavy left. Gary Wetzel's ship, piloted by WO Timothy Artman switched places with mine. He ended up the trail ship on the left and my ship, piloted by a Japanese CWO, was the trail ship on the right. I had taken sporadic fire before but was totally unprepared for the amount of fire we received flying into the LZ. I saw so many big orange fireballs flying through the air as we flew into the LZ that I really had no idea what was going on. I knew that we were in big trouble because there was a lot of excited radio traffic flying in. I could not fire as I was on the inside of the formation and ended up being an observer. As we came into the LZ Gary's ship was hit in the left, or Aircraft Commander's door with an RPG, (Rocket Propelled Grenade) as they were about 4 feet off the ground. They crashed immediately and as soon as they hit the ground, I saw two more explosions inside the ship and troops came flying out. As we sat down to insert our troops, I said to my Aircraft Commander "I have my aid bag, I'm gonna go help."

The AC replied "If you step one foot outside this ship I'll shoot your ass. You're here to protect this helicopter. We flew out of the LZ leaving two ships in the LZ and another, carrying Jimmy Banicki, was hit flying out and set down somewhere outside the LZ. The rest is, as they say, history. WO Tim Artman was critically wounded and died in the LZ later that night. Gary was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross the next day in the hospital and subsequently was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. We figured out later that the artillery and air strikes had prepped the wrong side of the river and left for us a horseshoe shaped ambush with 3- .51 caliber machine guns, more RPG's than we could count, and shitloads of small arms fire. I didn't see Gary for 18 years. In July of 1986 I had the opportunity to travel to Chicago for the Welcome home parade and weekend and finally had an opportunity to sit down and talk with Gary. I had felt and still feel guilty that I didn't just grab my aid bag and run to his assistance. I feel guilty that because of fate, he was injured and his pilot was killed and I survived with no injuries other than the emotional ones I carry to this day.

I have vivid memories of three or four other situations to which I was exposed during my tour in Vietnam, all of which happened during the 1968 TET offensive. Lai Khe was referred to by the individuals who lived there as "Rocket City" because of the enormous amount of 122mm rockets that the Viet Cong showered on the base during TET. The 122mm rocket consisted of a rocket body about six feet long with a 100 pound explosive warhead. They sounded like a jet flying overhead and when they landed, caused extreme destruction to the surrounding area. For a period of approximately one month leading up to TET we experienced rocket attacks three or four times a day, usually in flights of three or four rockets. We lived in constant anxiety and terror of a rocket landing in our vicinity.

Early one morning, I awoke on the floor of my tent and was attempting to determine why I was there when I heard a rocket explode a short distance away. I stayed on the floor until the rockets had stopped impacting and then ran, with my aid bag, to where I heard people screaming. At least one rocket had impacted in the rubber trees directly above the mess hall, and on my way to the mess hall I observed an individual, (Bill Gleixner, 408th TC Det.) who had been hit with a large piece of shrapnel in the head. It had taken the entire back of his head off. Realizing that there was nothing I could do for him, I continued on to the mess hall and as I entered I was confronted with the sight of 15 or 20 people in various stages of injury. I was the first medic on the scene and it felt like it took me forever to identify the most severely injured person. This individual had been hit high on the left thigh with a large piece of shrapnel and his leg was attached with only a small piece of tissue. His femoral artery was spurting blood six or seven feet in the air and, as I arrived at his side, I placed a tourniquet on his leg and attempted to bandage his leg.

I remember saying to someone who was helping me "We've got to get this guy to the hospital. We won't be able to save his leg, but we might be able to save his life." After transporting him to the surgical hospital on base, I thought no more about him, hoping that I had saved his life but never knowing how he had turned out.

When I returned to the states after my tour in Vietnam, I was stationed at Madigan General Hospital in Tacoma, Washington. I was walking down the hall at the hospital one day when an individual approached me and said "Hey Doc, how are you doing?"

I didn't recognize him and told him so. He reminded me of the rocket attack over the mess hall in Lai Khe and told me word for word what I had said while treating him. He looked at me as if I was his hero, which made me extremely uncomfortable, and said "I want to thank you for saving my life, but more than that I want to thank you for the job you did that day. This is my leg I'm walking on." I muttered something about just doing my job and left as soon as I could. In retrospect, I'm pleased that my training allowed me to treat his injury, to save his leg, and to save his life, but I have never been so uncomfortable in my life as I was when this guy was thanking me. I'm not a hero and I really didn't know how to deal with the adulation I saw in his eyes. I would like to sit down with him now and talk with him, but I couldn't do it then.

One of the other effects of the constant rocket attacks during that period of time was that base ammunition dump at Lai Khe sustained a direct hit early one morning. A number of us were sitting on a bunker about a mile away from where the ammo dump was exploding and enjoying the 4th of July like fireworks when a large chunk of metal crashed through a building about five feet from where we were sitting. We walked into the building and found ½ of a 90mm artillery round on the floor of the building. Completely sobered by what we had seen and realizing how lucky we all were to be alive, we adjourned to the safety of the inside of the bunker until the ammo dump had quit exploding.

One evening, we received orders to take our ambulance to the helipad across the airfield from where we were stationed to assist in transporting wounded from a unit of the 1st Infantry division that had been ambushed. Apparently Alpha company of the 2nd of the 28th Infantry had walked into an ambush. We waited for about 45 minutes and a CH-47 Chinook helicopter landed. We had been expecting to transport wounded troops to the base hospital, but we soon found out that all of the casualties were dead. We spent the rest of the evening and most of the night transporting bodies and parts of bodies to the graves registration point, assisting them in trying to match body parts to bodies, and cleaning up the bodies so that they could be prepared for burial.

The final incident that I remember seems so senseless to this day. One evening I was assigned to CQ (Charge of Quarters) duty in the dispensary to deal with whatever medical emergencies might arise, when I heard a gunshot about 30 feet away. An individual was brought into the dispensary with a gunshot wound to his left hand. The bullet had entered just beneath his left thumb and exited under his little finger. I applied a pressure bandage to the wound and transported him to Charlie Medical Company of the 1st Infantry Division across the runway from our unit. When I arrived at their dispensary, I turned my patient over to the medics there and observed the Doctors at Charlie Med working to resuscitate an individual from our unit, (John "Ranger" Stevens) who had been shot in the right chest with a .45 caliber pistol.

They did venous cutdowns on both legs in an attempt to get replacement fluids into him all the while doing CPR on him. After about twenty minutes of working to save his life, one of the doctors said "count two minutes on your watch" I did and told him that two minutes was up at which point he said "All right, lets stop, we've done everything we can for him, he's gone."

I subsequently determined that two individuals from the 2/28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, one black and one white, had been drinking in our NCO club and insulting one another all night. The white guy went out the back door of the club to use the urinal, and the black guy approached the bartender, said that he was leaving, and asked for his pistol. John "Ranger" Stevens had been listening to the two of them argue all night and had a bad feeling. He exited the rear door and walked in between the two troopers. John tried to talk the guy with the gun out of shooting, but to no avail. The black guy shot himself through the left hand and the bullet entered John's right chest and exited out the left armpit. When they called an end to the lifesaving measures on John, I very quietly walked into the other room where the staff sergeant was being treated and proceeded to choke him.

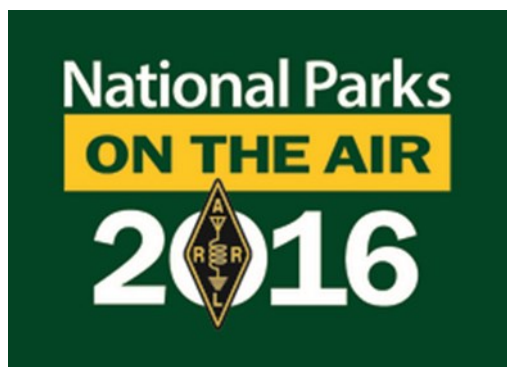
The other medics pulled me away from him and carried me outside. When our troops heard that John had died, they armed themselves and were enroute to kill the sergeant who had killed him. The sergeant was transported out of Lai Khe within minutes. We later heard that he was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to two years in Leavenworth.

I returned to the States finishing up my last year in the Army at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington.

"Doc"



National Parks on the Air Update



National Parks Week is April 16-24, and [NPOTA](#) activity is through the roof! Saturday, April 23, offers two events: International Marconi Day ([IMD](#)) and the National Park Service's "Instameet" on the social media site Instagram. People will be posting photos of

themselves as they enjoy being in an NPS unit, using the hash tag #FindYourParkInstameet. If you're an Amateur Radio operator and on Instagram, April 23 will be a great day to get some visibility for NPOTA on social media.

The ARRL is looking for high-quality photos and video of NPOTA activators in the field for display at the Dayton [Hamvention](#)® NPOTA booth! Photos and video should be high-resolution and tell a story that includes both ham radio and details about the park unit. [E-mail](#) us, if you have material to share. There will be 42 [activations](#) on the air April 21-27, including Tonto National Monument (MN70) in Arizona, and Colonial National Historic Park (HP09) in Virginia.

[Details](#) about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar.

Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on [Facebook](#). Follow NPOTA on [Twitter](#) (@ARRL_NPOTA).

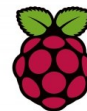
Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 28th, 2016**, at 7:00PM. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. Access the MRAC Yahoo group for important details about the February Meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

May 26th, 2016- 7 pm Auction Night

Please do not call the church for information!



Club Nets

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB**. Our two meter FM net follows at **9:00 p.m.** on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz**.

Visit our website at: www.w9rh.org

Or phone (414)-459-9741

Name of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager
Badger Weather Net (BWN) 3984 kHz, 0500	W9IXG
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 kHz, 1200	NX9K
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN) 3985 or 3982.5 kHz, 1700	KB9KEG
Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN) 3555 kHz, 1800	KB9ROB
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 kHz, Sn, T, Th, F, 1830	N1KSN
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 kHz, 1900	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 kHz, 2200	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967.0 kHz, 0800 Sunday	WB9WKO
* Net Control Operator needed. Contact Net Manager for information.	



Chatter Deadline

The **DEADLINE** for items to be published in the **Chatter** is the **15th of each month**. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me or Submit articles and materials by e-mail at: W9rhmrac@Gmail.com

or by Post to:

Michael B. Harris

807 Nicholson RD

South Milwaukee, WI 53172-1447

VE Testing:

April 30th, 9:30am— 11:30am

No testing: June, August or December

Location: Amateur Electronic Supply Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

ALL testing takes place at: Amateur Electronic Supply 5720 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223

Area Swapfest

April 30th, 8 am. Ozaukee Radio Club's Spring Ham-fest Location: Cedarburg, WI **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Ozaukee Radio Club **Website:** <http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

May 1st, The DeKalb Hamfest Location: Sandwich, IL **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club **Website:** <http://www.karc-club.org>

MRAC Working Committees

100th Anniversary:

- Dave—KA9WXN

Net Committee:

- Open

Field Day

- Dave—KA9WXN,
- Al—KC9IJJ

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ

Newsletter Editor

- Michael-KC9CMT
- Pancho– KA9OFA

Webmaster

- Dave, KA9WXN

Refreshments

- Hal—KB9OZN



Welcome

Membership Information

The Hamateur Chatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1st. MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00PM the last Thursday of the month except for November when Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday when the meeting moves forward 1 week to the 3rd Thursday and December, when the Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting. Club Contact Information

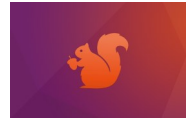
Our website address <http://www.w9rh.org>

Telephone **(414)-459-9741**

Address correspondence to:

MRAC, PO Box 26233, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0233

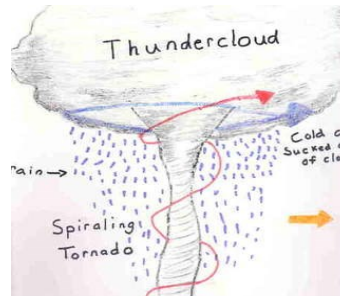
Email may be sent to: w9rh@arrrl.net . Our YAHOO newsgroup:



CLUB NETS:

- The Six Meter SSB net is Thursday at 8:00PM on 50.160 MHz USB
- Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00PM on 28.490 MHz \pm 5 KHz USB.
- Our Two Meter FM net follows the Ten meter net at 9:00PM on our repeater at 145.390MHz - offset (PL 127.3)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRAC-W9RH/>



The MRAC HamChatter is a monthly publication of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Serving Amateur Radio in Southeastern Wisconsin & all of Milwaukee County

Club Call sign – W9RH

MRAC Website: <http://www.W9RH.org>

Editor: Michael B. Harris, Kc9cmt, kc9cmt@Earthlink.net

Milwaukee Area Nets

Mon.8:00 PM 3.994 Tech Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- ARRL Newsline

Mon.8:00 PM 146.445+ Emergency Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- Walworth County ARES net

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.100+ Railroad net, also on EchoLink

Mon. 8:45 PM 147.165- ARRL Audio News

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.875+ WIARC net also on EchoLink 576754

Mon. 8:30 PM 146.820 Waukesha ARES Net —

on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of each month.

Mon. 9:00 PM 147.165– Milwaukee County ARES Net

Tue.9:00 AM 50.160 6. Mtr 2nd Shifter's Net

Tue. 9:00 PM 145.130+ MAARS Hand Shakers Net

Tue. 8:00 PM 7.035 A.F.A.R. (CW)

Wed. 8:00 PM 145.130+MAARS Amateur Radio Newsline

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.045+ West Allis ARC net

Wed. 8:00 PM 28.365Mhz 10/10 International Net

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.270+ Racine County ARES net

Wed. 9:00 PM 145.130+MAARS SwapNet, Allstar FM-38

Thur. 8:00 PM 50.160, 6 Mtr SSB Net

Thur. 8:00 PM 443.800+ Tech Net

Thur. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Computer Net

Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 Mtr SSB Net

Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390+ W9RH 2 MTR. FM Net

Sat. 7:30 AM MW Classic Radio Net , Freq.—3885 AM

Sat. 8:00 PM 146.910+ YL's Pink HAMsters Net

Sat. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Saturday Night Fun Net

Sun 8:00 AM, State ARES Net 3967/3977.5/145.470

Sun 8:30 AM 3.985 QCWA (Chapter 55) SSB net

Sun 9:00 AM 145.565+ X-Country Simplex Group

Sun 8:00 PM 146.910+ Information Net

Sun 8:00 PM 28.365 10/10 International Net (SSB)

Sun 9:00 PM 146.910+ Swap Net

Daily: Milwaukee — Rag Chew Net: 7:00 AM, 3850 SSB + Florida Net 7 am, 14.290 mhz.

2meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz

SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 Mtr and above are USB.

